

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, WB, UR, GW
SUBJECT: STOBBE COMMENTS ON UPCOMING BREZHNEV FRG VISIT

SUMMARY: AT OUTSET OF PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 27 AT WHICH HE
DREW BALANCE FOR HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE (TO RE REPORTED SEPTEL)
BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE ISSUED STATEMENT ON OCCASION OF
UPCOMING BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG IN WHICH STOBBE EMPHASIZED THE
NECESSITY FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO RESPECT AND ACCEPT THE
"POLITICAL REALITIES" WHICH EXIST IN WEST BERLIN IF FRG-USSR
RELATIONS ARE TO DEVELOP SATISFACTORILY. END SUMMARY.

1. BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR DIETRICH STOBBE MET BERLIN PRESS FOR
ABOUT 45 MINUTES APRIL 27. ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF PRESS CONFERENCE,
WHICH GOVERNING MAYOR HAS HAD PLANNED FOR OVER HALF A YEAR, HAD
BEEN TO PERMIT HIM TO DRAW BALANCE ON HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE
AND COMMENT ON FUTURE PLANS. HOWEVER, FORTHCOMING VISIT BY
BREZHNEV TO BONN IN EARLY MAY PROMPTED STOBBE TO BEGIN PRESS
CONFERENCE WITH STATMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF BERLIN-FRG TIES AND THE
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ROLE THEY WILL PLAY IN GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET-FRG
RELATIONS. STOBBE'S STATMENT WAS CLEARED WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
DURING HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION IN BONN APRIL 26.

2. STOBBE STRESSED THAT GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET-FRG
RELATIONS WOULD BE DETERMINED IN LARGE MEASURE BY THE DEGREE OF
SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THE POLITICAL REALITIES WHICH EXIST IN BERLIN

(WEST). STOBBE REITERATED THE TIME WORN FORMULATION THAT, WHILE NOT A CONSTITUENT PART OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, BERLIN (WEST) HAS BECOME A "FIRM COMPONENT" (FESTER BESTANDTEIL) WITHIN THE LEGAL, ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. STOBBE CALLED UPON THE SOVIET UNION TO LIVE UP TO THE AGREEMENT STRUCK AT THE TIME OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND TO RESPECT THE REALITIES OF BERLIN'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. ONLY THE ACCEPTANCE OF THESE REALITIES CAN MAKE POSSIBLE THE ELIMINATION OF MISTRUST WHICH CONTINUES TO EXIST AND ENCOURAGE DETENTE. STOBBE ALSO REITERATED THAT BERLIN CANNOT BE VIEWED AS A "THIRD STATE" ON GERMAN SOIL. USBER POUCHING FULL TEXT TO BONN AND DEPARTMENT.

3. IN FOLLOW UP QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD STOBBE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS A NEED FOR THE SOVIET UNION AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO WORK OUT NEW FORMULAE AND NEW TEXTS TO PERMIT THE INCLUSION OF BERLIN (WEST) IN TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE ARGUED THAT THE PRESENT FORMULAE WERE SUFFICIENT. HE ALSO OFFERED THE OPINION THAT AT THIS TIME IT IS NOT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT NEW PIECES OF PAPERS BE SIGNED, RATHER THE ONES WHICH ARE ALREADY IN EXISTENCE SHOULD BE HONORED.

4. STOBBE SAID HE SAW VERY LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT ANY OF THE OUTSTANDING DRAFT TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE

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SOVIET UNION WHICH REMAINED STALLED OVER THE QUESTION OF A BERLIN CLAUSE WOULD BE SIGNED DURING BREZHNEV VISIT. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT SPECIFIC BERLIN ISSUES WILL BE A MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN BONN' GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND BREZHNEV, ALTHOUGH HE WAS SURE THEY WOULD "COME UP" ON THE MARGINS OF THE TALKS AND WOULD PLAY A ROLE WHEN "MORE SIGNIFICANT TOPICS" SUCH AS BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND DISARMMENT WERE DISCUSSED. SEMLER

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